



1           WHEREAS, he served with unwavering dedication as a member of the Louisiana  
2 House of Representatives from 1968 until 1972 representing the concerns of District One  
3 in Caddo Parish; and

4           WHEREAS, Williamson joined the group of young reform-minded legislators called  
5 the "Young Turks" who demanded sweeping changes from the status quo; and

6           WHEREAS, during his service in the legislature, Representative Williamson  
7 garnered assignments to the House standing committees on education, ways and means,  
8 enrollment, and public works and institutions; and penned meaningful legislation to create  
9 Louisiana Public Broadcasting, to establish the Northwestern Louisiana Rehabilitation  
10 Hospital, and to reorganize vocational education; and

11           WHEREAS, in 1972, he ran for the seat in Senate District 39 and served for eight  
12 years; his honest reputation garnered legislative assignments to Senate committees on  
13 commerce, education, health and welfare (as chairman and vice chairman), retirement, and  
14 the Joint Committee on Education (as chairman); and

15           WHEREAS, during his tenure in the Senate, legislation was passed that changed  
16 Louisiana State University Shreveport from a two-year academic program to a four-year  
17 undergraduate degree-granting institution, advanced career education, established the  
18 Shreveport-Bossier Convention and Tourist Commission, provided mobile voter registration  
19 offices in the parishes of Caddo and DeSoto, created the Louisiana State University Health  
20 Sciences Center-Shreveport, ratified the Red River Compact and the Caddo Lake Compact,  
21 and established protection procedures for nursing home patients; and

22           WHEREAS, born into a family that was heavily involved in local politics; Donald  
23 Wayne Williamson was the son of Earl Williamson and the former Mamie Greer; he  
24 attended Vivian High School where he met and married his sweetheart, Norma Jean Herring;  
25 theirs was a Christian home filled with love and laughter for nearly fifty-seven years until  
26 her passing in 2002; and

27           WHEREAS, in 1946, he attended Centenary College for a year before beginning  
28 employment at General Electric in Schenectady, New York, in conjunction with the United  
29 States Navy atomic fusion plant; and

30           WHEREAS, in 1951, Don returned to Vivian to begin his business enterprises that

1 consisted of a drug store, furniture store, and several real estate developments; his business  
2 acumen led to expanded business ventures throughout Shreveport and Caddo Parishes; and

3 WHEREAS, Don served his community through his participation in fraternal and  
4 nonprofit organizations as president of the chapter of Lions Club International of Vivian, a  
5 32nd Degree Mason in the Vivian Masonic Lodge #38, and a member of the Downtown  
6 Shreveport Rotary Club; and

7 WHEREAS, Don Williamson experienced both success and failure in election  
8 campaigns, however he was never discouraged by the losses because he felt it was his civic  
9 and Christian duty to serve and to improve the circumstance of his fellow man; and

10 WHEREAS, at First Baptist Church of Shreveport, Don actively served as a deacon,  
11 Sunday School teacher, and mentor to others in the congregation professing his faith and  
12 security in God's love and mercy; and

13 WHEREAS, he is survived by his daughter, Sherry Williamson Paschall (John) and  
14 sons, Guy Williamson (Pam), and Randy Williamson (Gayle); his sister, Jean Bright;  
15 brothers, Clayton Williamson (Nette) and Ted Williamson (Connie); six grandchildren and  
16 six great-grandchildren, extended family and a host of friends; and

17 WHEREAS, Don Williamson was a singular individual with a generous nature,  
18 blessed with an abundance of determination and skills; he performed his public service  
19 proudly and willingly; he extended courtesy to all; and he leaves a rich and unique legacy  
20 of good works to his family, community, and state.

21 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby  
22 express its sincere condolences upon the passing of the Honorable Donald Wayne "Don"  
23 Williamson, former legislator and Shreveport businessman and does hereby acknowledge  
24 his lifelong commitment to public service.

25 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to his  
26 daughter, Sherry Williamson Paschall.

